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Queensland Health

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Dear Dr Yim and Dr Dale

Thank you for your letter dated 5 February 2025, regarding your suggestion for temporary changes to be made to the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme (PTSS).

I can advise that under the existing PTSS arrangements eligible patients already receive support for travel and accommodation to access specialties including Diagnostic Radiology, Diagnostic Ultrasound and Radiology. With clinical approval, eligible patients can also access specialist services which are not their closest should timeliness be an issue.

Further, Hospital and Health Services, as independent Statutory Authorities have the ability to support patient travel and accommodation arrangements that are outside of PTSS arrangements. These decisions should be based on clinical advice and in the interest of supporting patients to access specialist services that may not be available locally.

It is important to note that Queensland's PTSS has more favourable conditions when compared to other jurisdictions. Key conditions of note include Queensland's 50 kilometres from nearest public health facility allowance (Northern Territory is 250 kilometres), and Hospital and Health Services' ability to book and pay for patient travel and accommodation, alleviating the need for payment reimbursement. These arrangements provide support for Queensland patients, and I do not consider changes are required to the PTSS at this time.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]  
Dr David Rosengren  
Director-General  
13/03/2025

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